



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

Mr. John M. Fowler, Executive Director
 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
 Office of Planning and Review
 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
 Washington DC 20004

June 15, 2011

**Re: STB Docket No. AB 1068X, Missouri Central Railroad
 Company—Abandonment and Discontinuance of Service
 Exemption—In Cass County, Mo.**

**STB Docket No. AB 1068X, Central Midland Railway
 Company—Discontinuance of Service and Operating Rights
 Exemption—In Cass County, Mo.**

Dear Mr. Fowler:

In this proceeding, Missouri Central Railroad Company (MCRR) and Central Midland Railway Company (CMR) filed a notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking exemption from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 for MCRR to abandon, and for MCRR and CMR to discontinue service over, an approximately 5.6-mile rail line, in Cass County, Missouri.¹ The line is part of the former Rock Island Line and extends between milepost 257.283 (near Wingate) and milepost 262.906 (near Pleasant Hill). The Board's approval of this abandonment and discontinuance is considered an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) (NHPA) and is thus covered under its provisions.

The Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is the office within the Board responsible for ensuring the agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and NHPA. Based on available information, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has submitted comments stating that the rail corridor, as well as 4 bridges and 4 culverts on the line, are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Accordingly, pursuant to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations for implementing the section 106

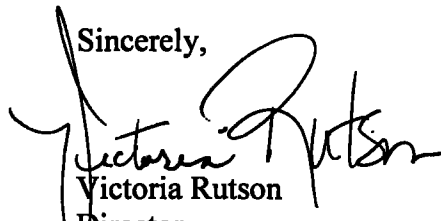
¹ Specifically, MCRR is seeking to discontinue service over the portion of the line between milepost 262.8 and milepost 262.906, and CMR is seeking to discontinue service and operating rights over the portion of the line between milepost 257.283 and milepost 262.8.

process of the NHPA, we are notifying you that the proposed abandonment may adversely affect these historic resources. OEA has begun the consultation process and will be working with the SHPO; the railroad; and other concerned or affected parties as needed. We seek your participation in the Section 106 process at this time.

The following documents are enclosed for your review: 1) the Notice of Exemption that describes the proposed action and contains information about the rail line; 2) the Environmental and Historic Reports submitted to OEA by the railroad; and 3) the December 3, 2010 Environmental Assessment prepared by OEA.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this proceeding, please do not hesitate to call me or Christa Dean at (202) 245-0299.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures

cc: Judith Deel, Missouri SHPO
Najah Duvall-Gabriel, ACHP
Sandra L. Brown, Thompson Hine LLP